



I AM NAVY MEDICINE: HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 1ST ELIZABETH RICHEAL

I joined the Navy in October 2005, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Unbeknownst to me, I was continuing a long family history of not only Naval Service but service in the Hospital Corps with three other family members currently serving as hospital corpsmen from the ranks of a 3rd class to a senior chief. It has become a "family thing", as the Sailors I work side-by-side with, have become my family as well.



Initially I was interested in Navy Medicine because of the opportunities it provides at home and overseas. As a hospital corpsman, you never know where you will end up. You may be assigned to a Marine Corps unit, to ship, on the ground with "seabees" or special warfare units. You're environment is always evolving or changing, but the care you provide is always the same.

Now as an Independent Duty Corpsman, the learning never ceases. The experiences are the most humbling that I have ever encountered; working in Afghanistan in a Shock Trauma Platoon or in the NATO headquarters, they are all different but it proves the adaptability and the need corpsmen.

My current job directly impacts the Navy Medicine mission by ensuring our Sailors and Marines, as well as other service members are fit for duty, then providing the best care while ensuring their health comes first. To sum up my experience with Navy Medicine in one word: amazing.

The experiences I've had and the opportunity I've been given to provide the best care possible to our nations' military, is a true honor.